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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/992,065	11/21/2001	Reynaldo M. Rincon	TI-32568	4865

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JIMMY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2829

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/992,065

Applicant(s)

RINCON ET AL.

Examiner

Jimmy Nguyen

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13 - 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Argument

The applicant's amendment filed 2/11/03 has been carefully considered with the following effect;

The applicant tries to clarify the claim language by adding the phase "**a linear sloped intermediate area**". Unfortunately, the examiner has not be able to find this limitation anywhere in the specification. Further, the multilayer (44) is linear in case the pressing member (43) inactive (which is when the probe is not come to contact with dut).

As explained in detail above, the amendments do not render the claims distinct and patentable over prior art; nor do the amendments overcome the rejection. The applicant's arguments have considered in full, but they are deemed to be unpersuasive. Therefore, this final rejection is made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to

Art Unit: 2829

one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The newly added limitation “**linear**” is not disclosed whatsoever in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kasukabe et al US (6305230).

As to claim 1, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) a dual probe card apparatus for contacting and testing IC chips including:

A probe card (fig 2) substrate having first and second major surfaces;

Probe card substrate (44) offset to form a centrally located horizontal plane (area of the contact tip terminal), a linear sloped intermediate area (area starting curving, or when the multilayer (44) is linear in case the pressing member (43) inactive (which is when

Art Unit: 2829

the probe is not come to contact with dut) and a peripheral plane parallel (area of circuit board 50) to the first horizontal plane (area of the contact tip terminal);

A plurality of probes contacts (47) arrayed on the first surface of central plane in a pattern to mirror the contact pads of a DUT (2);

An array of conductive traces (44) adhered to first substrate surface by a flexible insulating film (66) wherein the traces fan from the probe contacts (47) to conductive vias (50b) on the peripheral plane; and

An array of conductive vias (50b) connecting conductive traces (48) adhered to the first surface to probe head contacts on the second surface.

As to claim 2, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) the substrate comprises single structure (44).

As to claim 3, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) the probe card comprises a composite polymer (column 8 line 37 – 40).

As to claim 4, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) the substrate (44) comprises a laminate polymer (column 8 line 46 – 49)

As to claim 5, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) the conductive traces (48 is lead or wire made by copper) comprises a continuous copper member.

As to claims 6, 7, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) the probe contacts comprise gold stud bumps (column 21 line 1 – 3) and it is micro probe (47).

As to claim 8, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) the conductive vias (50b, is a wire or lead made by copper).

As to claim 9, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) an elastomeric polymer (46, line 48 - 51) disposed to fill the depressed central area from the second surface.

As to claim 10, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) the dimension of selected conductive traces are optimized for low inductance values (column 7 line 49 – 60).

As to claims 11, 12, Kasukabe et al disclose (fig 2) the probe contacts are below the level of the retaining ring (in most of the cases) and the diameter of probe contact (47) is smaller than contact pads of DUT.

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP


Art Unit: 2829

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy Nguyen at (703) 306-5858. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

JN.
April 23, 2003


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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